



NEWS RELEASE

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Woman Pleads to Helping Ex-Husband Evade Taxes

A 69-year-old woman pleaded no contest today to concealing her ex-husband's income to help him avoid paying state taxes, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Linda Ann Knowlton (dob 11/28/46) of Long Beach entered the plea to one felony count of tax evasion.

Knowlton is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 13 in Department 46 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. The defendant faces three years of felony probation and restitution in the amount of \$598,000.

Case BA446565 was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey Stodel of the White Collar Crime Division.

From 1982 to 1990, Linda Knowlton was married to Tommy Knowlton, who made millions of dollars in the oil business. Tommy Knowlton stopped filing income tax returns in 1996 and between 2008 and 2011 funneled more than \$70 million dollars to his ex-wife's personal checking account, the prosecutor said.

During this time Linda Knowlton had no other source of income other than from her ex-husband. They continued living together at a home she bought in spite of her lack of personal income. As the only signer to her checking account, the defendant would often write checks to Tommy Knowlton and his creditors to be paid by the money he deposited into her account in an effort to launder his income and conceal it from tax authorities, the prosecutor added.

Tommy Knowlton passed away in 2015.

The case was investigated by the California State Franchise Tax Board.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.